

CG-21-98

MANDATORY USE OF SEAT BELTS

Occupant restraint system or seat belt use is not an option--it is mandatory on White Sands Missile Range, just as it is on all other DoD installations and within the states of New Mexico and Texas.

All military personnel and DoD civilians operating or riding in a government or privately owned motor vehicle shall properly wear seat belts while on any DoD installation and while conducting any official business off a DoD installation. Military personnel shall wear seat belts both on and off duty. Proper use of an occupant restraint system includes the use of both the lap and shoulder belt.

The operator of the vehicle is responsible for informing passengers of the seat belt requirement. The senior occupant is responsible for ensuring enforcement. All non-use of occupant protective devices shall be enforced as a primary traffic violation. Failure to use seat belts can result in administrative or disciplinary action, to include suspension of driving privileges on DoD installations and in other areas subject to military supervision.

Children are also required to be safely and properly restrained, as follows:

- a. Children under the age of one year must be secured in an approved child passenger restraining device.
- b. Children between the ages of one and five must be secured in an approved child passenger restraining device or in a seat belt in the back seat.
- c. Children between the ages of five and twelve must be secured in a seat belt in either the front or back seat of the vehicle.

d. At no time should a child be placed in the front seat of a vehicle equipped with a passenger side air bag, unless the air bag can be disabled.

HARRY D. GATANAS
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Commander's Guidance - Mandatory Use of Seat Belts

1. Purpose. To obtain the signature of the Commanding General on the Commander's Guidance Document provided at Tab A.
2. References:
 - a. DoDI 6055.4 DoD Traffic Safety Program.
 - b. AR 385-55 Prevention of Motor Vehicle Accidents.
 - c. NM State Traffic Code 66-7-372.
 - d. TX Transportation Code 545.413.
 - e. WSMRR 190-3 White Sands Missile Range Traffic Code.
3. Discussion.
 - a. In view of the recent accident and stated references, subject guidance will inform personnel of the requirements for use of provided occupant restraint systems in all government and privately operated motor vehicles operated on White Sands Missile Range.
 - b. The signature of the Commanding General is required.
 - c. Coordination. Both the SJA and the Garrison Commander have reviewed and concurred in this guidance statement..
4. POC is Ms. Jeanette Early, Safety and Occupational Health Specialist, 678-1213/1211.

Encl
as

/released by Gene Forsythe/
THOMAS A. LADD
Director, National Range Environment
and Safety Directorate

